

GIRL, 16, SCOLDED, SUICIDE.

"I Will Never Lie Again," She Writes In Farewell Note.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—Sixteen-year-old Ella Peterson committed suicide at her home, 150 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, yesterday by shooting herself through the head.

The girl's parents conduct a furnished room house. Mrs. Peterson told the police she permitted her daughter, who worked, to keep her earnings for several weeks to buy Christmas presents. She learned the girl had spent the money for other purposes and reprimanded her. The girl then went to a bathroom on the third floor and killed herself. She left a note, written hastily on the back of an envelope, saying "Goodbye; I will never lie again."

KILLS GIRL AN DHIMSELF.

Former Soldier Uses Pistol on Sweetheart at Breakfast.

FREDONIA, N. Y., Dec. 30.—Joseph Huels, a recently returned soldier, today shot and killed Miss Eleanor Carroll, 18 years old, and committed suicide by shooting himself.

Huels and Miss Carroll are said to have been sweethearts for several years. They had a quarrel two weeks ago and friends had failed to bring about a reconciliation. This morning Huels went to Miss Carroll's home, shot her while she sat at the breakfast table and immediately afterward turned the weapon upon himself.

Miss Carroll was local manager of the Western Union Telegraph office.

Smallest Bird.

The golden-crested wren is the smallest of all European birds. Its average weight is only about eighty grains, so that it would take seventy-two of the birds to weigh a pound. The length of the feathers is about three and a half inches. When the feathers are off, the body is only an inch long.

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No Blowouts

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ESSENKAY rides like air on smooth surfaces—safer than on ever rough roads. It positively does away with punctures and "blow-outs," those costly and annoying incidents of pneumatic tires. Saves half your tire expense, doubles the life of your car's tires; an investment that will pay for itself in a few days. ESSENKAY is the life of your tires, as it is indestructible and can be transferred from one set of casings to another indefinitely.

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Total Liability to Depositors

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We Solicit Your Account

Safe deposit boxes for rent \$3.00 per year.

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Continued and increasing business proves appreciation of the service we are rendering the retailers in our territory.

We are now handling all standard goods at margins that are a surprise to other dealers. Our stock is fresh and up-to-the minute. Prompt shipment, accurate consignments and fair treatment, our motto!

The Atlantic Grocery Co.

Palatka, Florida

BILLION FROM KANSAS SOIL.

High Prices Cause Record Valuation of Farm Products.

TOPEKA, Dec. 30.—For the first time in the history of Kansas the farm products and live stock raised this year exceed \$1,000,000,000 in value. The annual report on farm production, issued today by J. C. Mobler, secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, shows the aggregate value to be \$1,078,000,000.

High prices rather than unprecedented yields were responsible for the showing, the report states.

TOOTHACHE ENDS ROMANCE.

Bride, Deserted on Wedding Day, Gets Divorce After Four Years.

NORRISTOWN, Pa., Dec. 30.—Mabel Hack, of Bridgeport, granted a divorce from her husband, Alburus Hack, never lived with him. On the way home from Magistrate Egbert's office, in Norristown, where they were married four years ago, he said he had a toothache and was going to a dentist. She never saw him again.

CITY MAY HAVE BIG FUTURE

Dakar, in South Africa, Promises to Develop Into Something Like Another Liverpool.

The city of Dakar in South Africa, less than half a century ago in a really primitive condition, with naked children running around the streets and mothers working with babies strapped upon their backs, has suddenly come into prominence as the prospective "Liverpool" of Africa. In the keen competition that is expected between America and Europe for trade in South Africa, Dakar, it is believed, will have an important role to play.

The French are today making extensive improvements at Dakar. They have spent much money in enlarging the dry dock and making the harbor deeper as well as increasing the facilities for transferring cargo from boat to train. The Dakar of today is a thriving town of about 25,000 people, with wide well-laid-out streets, a large technical school, hospitals and workshops. There are, however, a great majority of natives, being in fact, only about 3,500 Frenchmen.

These natives have been said by some to have formerly been the masters of the Mediterranean. They are wonderful fighters and it was only with great difficulty that in 1862, Gen. Faidherbe, the French governor, was able to overcome them. Thus he paved the way for the founding of Dakar. We may know a great deal more about it later.

Speeds Building.

Norwegian builders have developed a method of construction for temporary structure in which netting made of wooden rods is fastened to the uprights, bound together with wire, and covered with plaster.

Mustn't Be Down Too Long.

"A man may be down, but he's never out," is a nice slogan—but if you stay down for the count of ten you lose the biggest share of the game receipts.

GERMANY UNDONE
BY OWN WEAPON

Had Sold to America Secret of Making Explosive From Air.

BIG NITRATE PLANT RESULTS.

Built in Eight Months It Convinces Kaiser of His Defeat.

By GARRET SMITH.

One of the most romantic passages in the secret history of the World War is the story of how the Ordnance Department of the United States Army made it possible for America, until then utterly lacking in ammunition and in facilities for making it, to manufacture unlimited quantities of powerful explosives out of air and rock. It was largely the knowledge of this fact that forced Germany to surrender when she did.

The secret was secured from Germany herself. It was an open business transaction between business men, whereby we apparently acquired nothing more military than a process for making a high grade fertilizer known as cyanamid.

Frank Sherman Washburn, head of the group of business men who bought this process, conceived the germ of the idea in the early nineties while in South America as consulting engineer in connection with the production and shipping of Chilean nitrate of soda. Nitrogen compounds are an essential part of all commercial fertilizers. The only available natural nitrate deposits in large quantities are in Chile. This supply was diminishing. Germany, which had been taking about one-third of the Chilean nitrates, was already experimenting with processes for their artificial production. In 1907 Mr. Washburn secured in Germany the American rights of the cyanamid process which had been invented in that country.

Turning Air Into a Weapon.

By this process air, which is a mixture of about four-fifths nitrogen gas and one-fifth oxygen, is placed in containers and subjected to pressure and cold until it turns to a liquid. Then the nitrogen is distilled in much the same manner as alcohol is separated from water. But before this nitrogen can be used as a fertilizer it must be combined with a chemical combination of lime and carbon known as calcium carbide, produced by burning ordinary limestone in big rotary kilns and combining it in the electric furnace with carbon supplied in the form of ordinary coke.

Cyanamid thus produced contains the elements of ammonium nitrate, one of the most powerful of modern explosives. By one process ammonia is extracted from the cyanamid. By another process nitric acid is extracted from another batch of this same cyanamid. Then the ammonia and nitric acid are combined and there you have ammonium nitrate ready for packing into shells with TNT.

There are three kinds of explosives used for bursting shells in modern warfare—TNT, picric acid and ammonium nitrate. The United States was equally deficient in raw materials and plants for manufacturing all three of these explosives. Under the best of conditions the cost of either TNT or nitric acid is about two and one-half the cost of ammonium nitrate. But the United States was wholly dependent upon Chilean nitrate of soda as a raw material for ammonium nitrate, with the exception of a small production of nitrogen from the coking of coal. The Chilean supply was 4,500 miles away from New York City by way of the Panama Canal, and the route by way of the Straits of Magellan is nearly twice as long.

A Record Building Operation.

Shortly after the war began in Europe the German government entered into the fixation of air nitrogen for military explosives on a vast scale. It was not, however, until the fall of 1917 that the United States government took it up.

The Ordnance Department asked Mr. Washburn's company to organize a subsidiary corporation, known as the Air Nitrates Corporation, with Mr. Washburn as president, to act as agent of the government for the construction and operation of the air nitrates plant at Muscle Shoals, Alabama. This corporation provided the designs, erected the equipment in the chemical plants and supervised all the other work. It also operated the camp, the town and the plant. Other work is sublet to several of the best known organizations in the United States. Westinghouse, Church, Kerr Company built the plant buildings, the camp, the permanent city and utilities. The J. G. White Engineering Corporation designed and built the nitrate acid plant. The M. W. Kellogg Company furnished the piping and built the chimneys. On February 16, 1918, ground was broken, and eight months and eight days later the \$60,000,000 Muscle Shoals plant began producing ammonium nitrate. In that brief period 23,000 men had completed the plant and around it, where not a house stood before, had arisen a city of 25,000 inhabitants.

This plant when in full operation was ready to provide 15 per cent of all explosives to be used by all the allies on all the allied fronts during the expected spring drive of 1919.

Forty Is Sacred Number
With Respect to Weather
After St. Swithin's Day

The 40-day period of imaginary flood or drought following St. Swithin's day is now long past for this year, and we shall hear no more of that singular superstition, says the New York Herald, until next summer, when it will doubtless "bob up serenely," only to be discredited again as it has invariably been every year since the worthy bishop of Winchester was buried the second time. For, of course, the prophecy has never so much as once been fulfilled. It requires every day from July 15 to August 24 in every year to be either rainy or rainless, which is something that never has happened in any year.

Why 40 days was selected as the period of meteorological monotony is an interesting question, though it is probable that it was suggested by the 40 days' downpour in Noah's time. At any rate, it is only one of the many noteworthy uses that have been made of the number 40 in fact and fiction.

After the 40 days and 40 nights of rain at the deluge, it will be recalled, Noah waited 40 days before he opened the window of the ark and sent forth the raven.

Pitless Prunes.

Watsonville, Cal.—The stoneless prune, a Burbank production, promises to become a popular fruit. The fruit is practically the same as the ordinary breakfast prune with exception that the stone in the center is replaced by a soft kernel or seed that can be cooked with the fruit and eaten.

STOCKHOLDERS MEETING.

The stockholders of the Florida Woodenware Co., will hold their annual meeting at the offices of the company, Palatka, Fla. on Wednesday morning, January 7, 1920.

FLORIDA WOODENWARE CO.
W. P. Merriam, Secretary.

12-2-3t

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